

## **EXPANDING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES:**

# **THE IRONBOUND COMMUNITY RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

### **Phase I Report: Analysis and Recommendations**

#### *Prepared For*

The Ironbound Community Corporation, the Community Planning Steering Committee, and all those in the Ironbound concerned about the community's recreation opportunities and health.

#### *Prepared By*

Wallace, Roberts & Todd, Architects, Landscape Architects, Environmental & Urban Planners

May, 2002

Complete report is available by contacting  
Ironbound Community Corporation.

## **PREFACE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Ironbound Community Recreation and Open Space Plan is an initiative that began at the community level with individuals deeply concerned about the lack of recreational opportunities for residents of the Ironbound. Spurred by the community, the Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) solicited funds from foundations to analyze the current situation and prepare recommendations and a plan of action for the future. With funding in place, ICC contracted with Wallace, Roberts, & Todd, Landscape Architects, to prepare a concept plan for enhanced open space and recreation in the Ironbound.

Particular thanks go to our funders, The Schumann Fund and The Fund for New Jersey, for their generous support, and to the excellent, dedicated staff of Wallace, Roberts & Todd, particularly Mami Hara and Ignacio Bunster-Ossa, who have been a pleasure to work with.

Special thanks goes to three people who helped comprise our in-house team, provided their expertise, time, and energy as if they lived in the Ironbound, and without whom this project would not have been possible:

- **Elizabeth Johnson**, recreation specialist, formerly of the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy and now Chief Operating Officer of Isles, Inc in Trenton. Liz was instrumental in helping to get this initiative off the ground and in the development of the strategic thinking behind the plan.
- **Alan Mallach**, professional planner, formerly the Director of Housing and Economic Development for the City of Trenton and now a planning consultant. Alan has been Ironbound's planning guru, always helping us to take our community visions one step further and then translating them into the technically appropriate language and framework.
- **Martha Lamar**, professional planner and consultant. Beyond contributing her expertise on a daily basis, Martha has provided the project management that has kept the project on its ever-urgent timeline. Her coordination, guidance, and writing skills are largely responsible for our achieving our final product, Phase I Report on the Ironbound Community Recreation and Open Space Plan..

Members of the Ironbound Planning Steering Committee and the Open Space Advisory Committee, listed below, generously contributed their talents and valuable time to this project. The Steering Committee, created prior to our funding, has worked not only on the Ironbound Community Master Plan and this Recreation and Open Space initiative, but also on the community's organizing efforts to protect itself from development proposals that have threatened the little land available for new schools and parks. Large numbers of community people attended recreation forums and responded to surveys to help define the problems, needs, and priorities for recreation in the community, making important contributions to this report. We offer our deepest thanks to all those involved.

### **For Ironbound Community Corporation:**

**Joseph Della Fave**  
Executive Director

**Nancy Zak**  
Coordinator, Community Organizing

## Community Planning Steering Committee

Michael Alban	Ironbound Little League
Marianna Golden	School Principal
Manuel Lavin	SPARK
Monsignor George Lutz	St. James Church
Lito Miranda	SPARK
Rose Miktus	Senior Citizen
Elaine Neves	PTA Resource Center
Richard Partyka	Ironbound Boys & Girls Club
Joseph Rendiero	School Principal
Lidia Rossi	School Parent
Jose Sosa	South Ironbound Business Association
Reverend Moacir Weirich	St. Stephans United Church of Christ

## IRONBOUND RECREATION & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Augusto Amador	East Ward Councilman
Ceu Cirne-Neves	St. James Hospital
Antonio Amorim de Gomes	Ironbound Business Improvement District
Joseph DiVincenzo	Essex County Freeholder Board
Robin Dougherty	Greater Newark Conservancy
Catherine Elliott-Shaw	NJDEP, Green Acres Program
Armando Fontoura	Essex County Sheriff's Office
Joel Freiser	Newark Economic Development Corp.
Corwin Frost	Newark Public Schools
Kim Gaddy	NJ Environmental Federation
Richard Isaaz	Essex County
Joaquin Matias	City of Newark, Department of Economic Development
Dennis Miranda	NJ Conservation Foundation
John O'Connor	US Army Corps of Engineers
Leigh Reigh	Trust for Public Land
Anthony Schumann	NJIT School of Architecture
Judith Shaw	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

- Organizations are mentioned for identification purposes only.

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